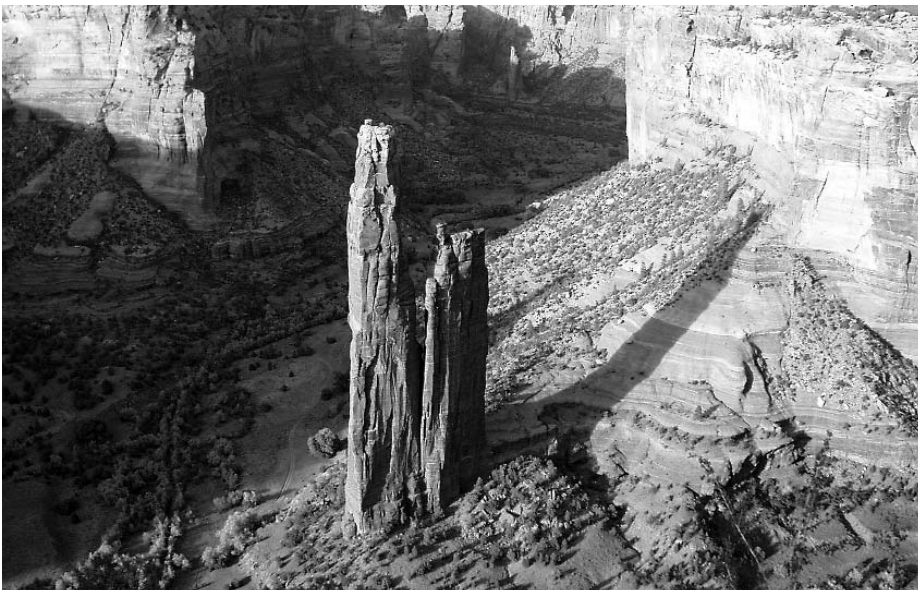
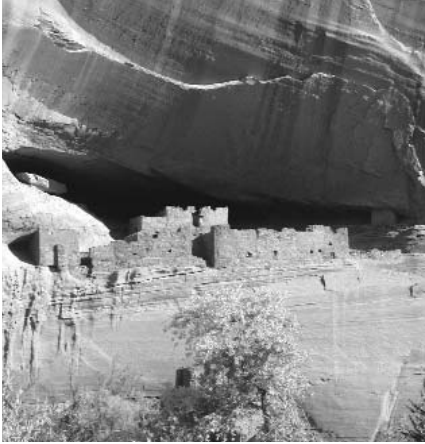




August 2004

General Management Plan Update





Message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends, Neighbors, and Visitors,

The National Park Service, working closely with the Navajo Nation, Pueblo neighbors, canyon residents, and the public, is making progress in developing a general management plan for Canyon de Chelly National Monument. This visionary plan will guide the management and protection of canyon resources for the next 20 years.

In 2003, the National Park Service sent a newsletter and held public meetings to find out what you value most about the park and what concerns you have for its future. Most of the meetings were held in de Chelly and del Muerto canyons with canyon residents. Two meetings were held in Window Rock with Navajo Nation agencies. During October, six public meetings were also held in Chinle, Window Rock, Tsaile, Flagstaff, Gallup, and Farmington.

Many of you expressed strong concerns and specific ideas about the park and its future. Your comments, summarized on the following pages, set the stage for the major topics the general management plan will address. Your voice has helped further articulate the *purpose, statements of significance, and mission goals* of Canyon de Chelly. Draft purpose, significance, and mission statements for the monument are included in this newsletter. These statements will serve as a firm foundation upon which to make management decisions and will help shape and guide our planning effort.

I want to thank you for your time, thoughtful comments, and continued interest in Canyon de Chelly National Monument. Your input has been, and continues to be, invaluable in developing a management plan that addresses the unique qualities, resources, and experiences within Canyon de Chelly National Monument.

I hope you will continue to participate in the planning process for your national monument. Your contributions will make a lasting difference in the long-term management of Canyon de Chelly.

Sincerely,

Scott Travis
Superintendent,
Canyon de Chelly National Monument



SPIDER ROCK

Purpose, Significance and Mission of Canyon de Chelly National Monument

MONUMENT PURPOSES

Purpose statements reaffirm the reasons for which the monument was established as a unit of the national park system. Purpose statements provide foundation for the management and use of the monument.

The purposes of Canyon de Chelly National Monument are to

- preserve outstanding prehistoric Ancestral Puebloan archeological resources for their scientific, cultural, and scenic values
- preserve and protect features of archeological, historical and sacred significance to the Navajo and other Native American peoples
- provide for the protection and care of other scientific resources
- provide for the education, care, and accommodation of visitors to the monument

STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significance statements capture the essence of Canyon de Chelly National Monument's importance to the Navajo and Pueblo people and to our nation's natural and cultural heritage. Defining the monument's significance in a regional, national, and international context helps managers make decisions that preserve the resources and values necessary to accomplish the monument's purpose.

Canyon de Chelly National Monument is significant for the following reasons:

Living Community - Canyon de Chelly sustains a living community connected to a landscape of great historical and spiritual significance – a landscape composed of places infused with collective memory.

Partnership - Unique among units of the National Park system, Canyon de Chelly is comprised entirely of Navajo Tribal Trust Land that remains home to a large canyon community. The National Park Service and Navajo Nation work in partnership to manage park resources and sustain the living community of Canyon de Chelly.

Connection to Place - Many people embrace Canyon de Chelly as a place of profound power. It is essential to the spiritual, traditional, and cultural identity of American Indian communities throughout the American Southwest.

Integrity of Cultural Resources - Reflecting one of the longest continuously inhabited landscapes of North America, the cultural resources of Canyon de Chelly – including distinctive architecture, artifacts, and rock imagery – exhibit remarkable preservational integrity that provides outstanding opportunities for study and contemplation.



ANTELOPE HOUSE

Prehistoric Community and Landscape - Canyon de Chelly preserves an archeological record that reveals the intimate connection between landscape and ancestral American Indian communities of the Colorado Plateau. This connection illustrates the possibilities, and limits, of the canyon environment while at the same time expressing the creative ability of successive ancestral communities to mold and shape social space over thousands

of years. Bound together by a common history and place, these early communities reflect an enduring heritage; a singularly important American historical landscape.

Historic Community and Landscape,

The Diné (Navajo) - When first inhabited by the Diné in the early to mid 1700's, Canyon de Chelly emerged as a distinct community focused on agriculture, peach orchards, cohesive settlements, and a close relationship with Hopi settlements both within the canyon and to the west. From these origins, the Diné of Canyon de Chelly have witnessed conflict and resistance, removal and renewal, the establishment of reservation life, and all of the uncertainties and promise of the modern era. While these events have challenged the canyon Diné, their ties to this living landscape and community continue to reflect the distinctive character and quality of previous centuries.

Traditional History of the Diné - The canyons embrace a sacred landscape embedded with traditional histories and origin accounts of extraordinary significance to the Navajo people. Establishing an inherently Navajo view of the past, these powerful accounts—many of which are depicted as “narrative pictorials” on canyon walls—provide a record of significant historical events, an understanding of the world's origins and essential wisdom, and guidance on how to properly follow the Diné Way. Importantly, these accounts continue to be key “documents” for the Navajo people and community of Canyon de Chelly.

Water - The largest watershed on the Defiance Plateau, Canyon de Chelly provides a perpetual water source that has sustained diverse plant, animal, and human life throughout time.

Intimate Landscape - The vibrant yet serene beauty of Canyon de Chelly is found in the shapes, colors, contrasts, and interplay of light and shadows across natural and cultural features. These qualities create intimate, inspirational, and memorable experiences

for residents and visitors from around the world.

Biodiversity - As a reflection of geographical location and physiographic complexity, Canyon de Chelly contains a remarkable range of habitats that encourage biodiversity.

Environmental Change - Canyon de Chelly provides outstanding opportunities to observe the process and outcomes of environmental change brought about by natural and human forces.

MONUMENT'S MISSION

A monument's mission statement expresses a vision for the future and articulates, in broad terms, the ideals that the National Park Service and its partners strive to attain.

The following is the mission of Canyon de Chelly National Monument:

The National Park Service and Canyon de Chelly National Monument work in partnership with the Navajo people and other Indian tribes to protect and interpret Canyon de Chelly as a landscape of historical, sacred, and national significance as well as enhancing the cultural and social aspirations of the Navajo people.



HISTORIC HOGAN



MISSION GOALS

Mission goals describe the desired future conditions achieved as a result of this plan:

The mission goals for Canyon de Chelly National Monument are as follows:

- Canyon de Chelly serves as a source of inspiration, pride, and cultural understanding for the Navajo people and visitors alike.
- Canyon de Chelly protects the landscape, structures, archeological and ethnographic resources, and artifacts that reflect and document the history of the canyon.
- Canyon de Chelly serves as a management model in partnerships between the National Park Service, Navajo Nation, canyon communities, and other entities.
- Canyon de Chelly provides outstanding opportunities to study and contemplate the intimate relationships between land and people.
- Canyon de Chelly and its residents resolve common concerns and share responsibilities regarding resource protection, community privacy, and impacts to the canyon.
- The National Park Service and Navajo Nation provide a diverse range of visitor experiences and access to the canyon while protecting canyon resources.
- Canyon de Chelly achieves a sustainable watershed that preserves park resources, the living community landscape, and the canyon residents' connection to place.
- The Navajo Nation and local Navajo residents agree with and support the mission of the National Park Service for Canyon de Chelly.
- Canyon de Chelly's regular interpretive programs are supported by a variety of other exceptional educational opportunities to enhance knowledge and understanding among visitors, families and individuals of all age groups.

What we've heard so far...

Between spring and fall of 2003, the National Park Service held many meetings with canyon residents, Navajo Nation agencies, park staff, and the general public to understand what people value most about Canyon de Chelly and what their concerns are for its future. Meetings were held with representatives of the Departments of Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation, Historic Preservation, and the Navajo Environmental Protection Agency at Window Rock on July 9, 2003. Public meetings were also held at Chinle (October 7), Tsaile (October 8), Window Rock (October 9), Gallup (October 28), Farmington (October 29), and Flagstaff (October 30). In addition, the planning team met with representatives of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chinle offices, and the Canyon de Chelly Guide Association on July 8.

Many of the same issues and concerns were raised by everybody we met. In general, we heard that Canyon de Chelly is a place of profound power and spiritual significance for the Navajo and Pueblo people, canyon residents, and visitors from all over the world. We also heard that the canyon – infused with so much history and memory – holds instructional value for living in harmony and balance. It provides strength and a source of identity for individuals and cultures alike. We understood that these values must be protected above all else.

People also value the “physical” aspects of the canyon – its immense beauty, its shelter and protection for its earliest settlers to today’s residents, and for its resources that sustained communities for 5,000 years. Geologic features, like Spider Rock and Fortress Rock, are associated with songs and stories that hold traditional value and historical events that are significant in the minds of the Diné – the Navajo people. This, too, warrants National Park Service (NPS) protection.

People also appreciate the reasons Canyon de Chelly National Monument was established: to protect the outstanding Ancestral Puebloan archeological resources, including cliff dwellings, petroglyphs and pictographs, and material remains associated with thousands of years of habitation. Again, these resources should be protected and to some extent, be made accessible for visitors from all over the world to experience.

Through this lens, several concerns emerged regarding the future of Canyon de Chelly. The following ideas summarize the concerns and direction we heard for managing the unique qualities of Canyon de Chelly:



FARMSTEAD SCENE

What we heard from canyon residents . . .

The most pressing concerns for canyon residents are:

- lack of useable water
- increasing spread of non-native vegetation (Russian olive and tamarisk trees)
- erosion

Because of these factors, farming – and a traditional way of life – is declining in the canyon. This creates sadness and distress for people who live there.

About Natural Resources

The spread of tamarisk and Russian olive affects canyon residents’ ability to make a living. These non-native species have sucked the canyon of water, necessary to grow crops and raise livestock. Residents cannot see to the other side of the canyon anymore.

The watershed is no longer able to sustain residents. Between drought and erosion, residents may no longer be able to live in the canyon in the traditional way – growing crops and herding sheep.

Erosion is a major concern. Topsoil is being lost. The rich soil is becoming bare rock. Erosion has been caused by the Tsaile Dam, increasing numbers of vehicles in the canyon, overgrazing, and past logging activities.

Trash is a problem. Plastic materials, cans, and glass bottles are creating visual intrusions on the landscape. There are illegal dumps on the canyon rim.

There is no more firewood.

Overall, canyon residents recommend that the National Park Service work closely with the Navajo Nation to

- clear Russian olive and tamarisk trees
- leave some vegetation, but provide openings
- find ways (drills, pumps, check dams) to access the water table
- control erosion:
 - prevent overgrazing
 - have grazing permittees re-seed the land
 - rebuild irrigation systems
 - manage existing dams (Tsaile and Wheatfield) to prevent further erosion
 - use small dams to catch soil
 - limit vehicle traffic, especially big trucks, in the canyon
- control trash that visually pollutes the canyons:
 - use signs, fencing, and recycling containers as necessary
 - hold community meetings to educate the public and organize cleanups
 - work with the Navajo Environmental Protection Agency to clean up waste dumps and encourage recycling

About Access

Protecting privacy of canyon residents is of utmost concern. Increasing vehicle traffic, trespassing, and disturbance of archeological resources must be controlled. Increasing outside traffic erodes canyon roads. Noise from jeep tours, motorcycles, and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) disrupt traditional ways of life.

Residents are also concerned about gangs and parties abusing the canyon. Generally, canyon residents would like the National Park Service to

- maintain and improve canyon roads
- reduce unauthorized access to sacred sites
- make sure only authorized guides are allowed in the monument
- increase ranger patrols in the canyon to alleviate the above problems

About Commercial Operations

Commercial operations, like guided tours, bring increasing numbers of people into the canyon. Protection of privacy is again an issue. A suggestion was made that all guides must be certified or not be allowed in the monument. Residents also pointed out that jeep tours are too noisy.

With regard to vending operations, canyon residents generally felt

- there were too many vendors
- vendors needed an association similar to the guide association
- sales items should reflect local art
- the places where vendors sell items should be managed

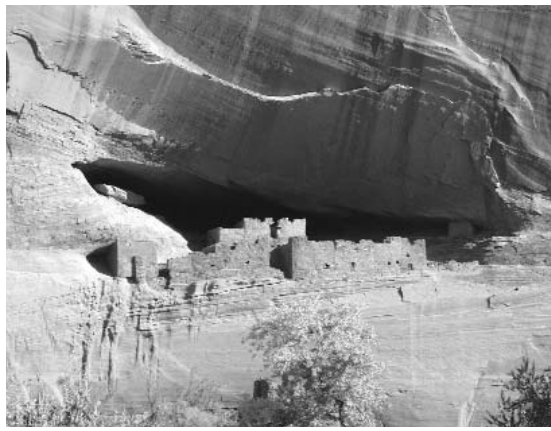
It was also stated that the Thunderbird Lodge concession should be owned by the Navajo Nation.

What we heard from the Navajo Nation agencies...

About Management of the Monument

The Navajo Nation agency representatives that commented were concerned about how the monument is being managed and the relationships of the various entities that play a role in the management of Canyon de Chelly. Some of the comments were:

- The trust status of Canyon de Chelly's lands poses unique management and planning challenges.
- The National Park Service needs to consult with and reach out to canyon residents, Chinle community, adjacent communities, chapter houses, the Navajo Nation, and other agencies to achieve the broadest vision for Canyon de Chelly's future.



WHITE HOUSE RUINS

- The general management plan needs public support, understanding, and education as well as a strong tribal commitment to implement it.
- In planning for the monument it is important to review the legislative history of Canyon de Chelly, including Navajo Nation regulations and codes.
- The Navajo Nation should take the lead in resolving issues related to overgrazing, erosion, and residential development on the canyon rims.

About Cultural Significance

The importance of Canyon de Chelly to the Navajo Nation was recognized. Canyon de Chelly's living culture is as important as the prehistoric cultures that once lived there. It was also observed that resources, religion, and recreation are competing forces in the canyon.

About Environmental Issues

Several issues were raised by the agency representatives. It was noted that canyon resources are being impacted by erosion, tourism, development on the rims, drought and limited water quantity, trash, and overgrazing. Canyon elders have expressed despair over the growth of dense non-native vegetation that blocks the once open views they remembered in the canyon. Water quality, watershed protection, and restoration measures need to be incorporated into management of the monument. The Navajo Nation agencies felt the National Park Service should enter into sustained consultation and coordination with Navajo Nation agencies.

About Economic Development

The need for economic development and the costs of that development were pointed out by the agency representatives. Some of the comments were:

- Canyon residents are interested in expanding commercial activities (e.g., bed and breakfast hogans).
- There is a need for support of a sustainable tourism business in the monument without large-scale development.
- Interests of human welfare sometimes outweigh resource protection and tourism interests resulting, for instance, in new home site permits on the canyon rims.
- There is a need to control growth along the canyon rims.
- The Navajo Nation would like to take over the Thunderbird Lodge concession if it were affordable.

What we heard from other federal agencies and the Canyon de Chelly Guide Association...

Several concerns were raised by representatives of the local Bureau of Indian Affairs, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the guide association. Some of the comments were:

- The canyon community is confused by the differing missions, regulations, and activities of the agencies they encounter. Federal agencies need to communicate to local residents in their own language and demonstrate a unified effort.
- Watershed program administrators need to coordinate efforts and share information.
- There is uncertainty about how grazing and agricultural use permits relate to the NPS mission in the canyon. The NPS staff need to meet with the Navajo grazing committee, chapters, and justice office to sort out these issues and better define jurisdictional boundaries.



What we heard from the monument staff ...

The planning team also met with the Canyon de Chelly National Monument staff to listen to their views and concerns regarding the management and future of the monument. The staff raised a

number of concerns and issues, covering the cultural/spiritual significance of the monument, the relationship with the canyon community, the spread of non-native vegetation, relations with the Navajo Nation and other agencies, and the need for education and outreach efforts. Among the comments the NPS staff provided were:

- Canyon de Chelly is a sacred place of power.
- The canyon's cultural significance (what it means to people today and in the past) should take precedence over its archeological, geological, scenic, and scientific values. The canyon's cultural significance should be emphasized to visitors.
- Navajo cultural and traditional frames of reference must be considered in the planning process.
- In the past there has been a previous lack of communication between the National Park Service and canyon residents.
- Canyon residents are encouraged by the willingness of the NPS staff to meet with them, listen to their issues, and work cooperatively to achieve positive solutions.
- There is a need to continue to build the trust of the canyon community.
- Tamarisk and Russian olive need to be removed. Non-native plants need to be replaced with natural vegetation.
- There is a need to better define the roles and responsibilities of the NPS, Navajo Nation, and Bureau of Indian Affairs with regard to management of the canyon. The general management plan perhaps can better define roles and agency accountability.
- Some problems at Canyon de Chelly often remain unresolved because the National Park Service does not have the clear authority to respond to the problems.
- Concern was expressed about the proposed

What we heard from the general public ...

About Natural Resources and the Visitor Experience

People want the monument's natural resources to be protected. If overgrazing is a problem, they want to limit this activity. They also want to replace non-native plant species with native plants.

Increasing development on canyon rims affects visitors and canyon residents alike. Development needs to be limited to protect scenery and traditional lifestyles.

Intrusive bright lights and noise in the campground, which impacts tent campers, needs to be reduced.

About Access

Some people want more access to Canyon de Chelly's archeological resources, especially to Mummy Cave, Antelope House, and White House. Some want to enter dwellings for closer views, like experiences found at Mesa Verde. Most understand the need to protect sacred sites and resources but hope access can still be provided without spoiling them.

About Archeological Resources

Canyon de Chelly is an outstanding research laboratory. Surveys reveal the canyon is unique in Southwest archeology in many ways, especially as it reveals connections with northern Mexico, Chaco, and Hopi cultures. Survey documentation is excellent and surveys should continue as unobtrusively as possible.

improvements to the road between Spider Rock and Sawmill. This could impact the visitor experience along the south rim and have serious safety problems as higher speed through-traffic merges with visitors traveling at slower speeds.

- Disrespect for the canyon is reflected in trash dumped into the canyon and by other inappropriate activities at the overlooks and elsewhere in the canyon.
- The general management plan can serve a positive purpose in educating the younger generation who will be future stewards of the canyon.
- All NPS staff should strive to actively reach out to the public and local community to increase awareness of Canyon de Chelly's significance, as well as its identity as a unit in the national park system.

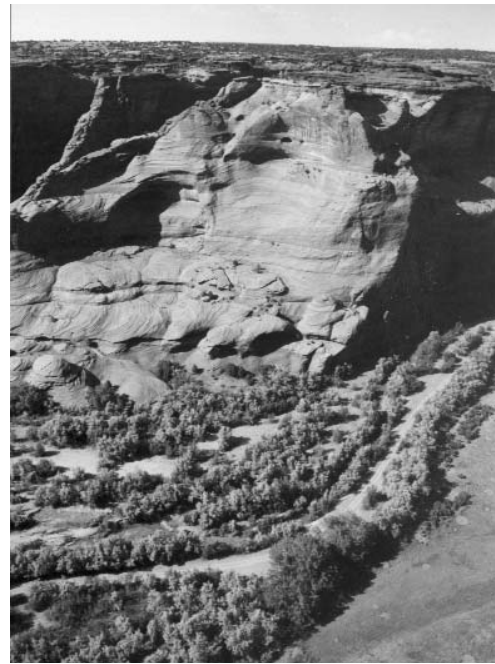
Work Begins on Protecting Canyon de Chelly National Monument's Watershed

The future of Canyon de Chelly National Monument's watershed is one of the key issues and concerns of canyon residents, Navajo Nation agencies, the National Park Service (NPS), and others who have a stake in the monument. The spread of invasive non-native species, like tamarisk and Russian olive, soil erosion, and altered stream flows have dramatically affected the entire canyon ecosystem, including cultural resources and the residents who depend on canyon resources for their livelihoods. The general management planning team quickly realized that the fate of the watershed is a critical priority for both the local community and the National Park Service.

In response to the resource issues/threats facing Canyon de Chelly, an NPS interdisciplinary team was assembled in 2003, consisting of water, geologic, biological, archeological and ecological specialists. In October 2003 the team visited Canyon de Chelly and met with monument staff and stakeholders. The goals of the team were to: (1) conduct an initial assessment of watershed and natural resource conditions; (2) identify desired future conditions that promote the long-term sustainability of the natural and cultural ecosystems; (3) examine specific short- and long-term management actions that could be taken to maintain and restore resources; and (4) begin to identify cooperative management opportunities within the monument.

The NPS watershed team recently published its findings, which are on file at the monument headquarters. Among its findings, the team found:

- there is a need to develop and sustain partnerships among various groups and agencies to ensure that watershed management efforts are integrated and coordinated



- deteriorating watershed conditions pose threats to archeological and historic landscapes, including the entire range of cultural resources in the monument
- spreading non-native species and land use patterns have substantially altered the canyons' ecosystems

Several high-priority actions were identified by the NPS team, including

- form a stakeholder watershed committee to facilitate coordination of planning and management activities that affect monument resources
- implement high priority weed control projects
- conduct a comprehensive inventory of disturbed lands and a non-native plant assessment to help determine watershed restoration needs
- conduct a study to identify the most appropriate methods for large-scale tamarisk/Russian olive removal that would promote recovery of stable stream channels and native riparian vegetation
- add natural resource managers to the Canyon de Chelly staff to manage resources, coordinate programs, and better integrate the monument's cultural and natural landscapes and resources

Many of the insights and recommendations of the watershed team will be incorporated into the general management plan. Before the plan is finished, the National Park Service will begin to take action, in close cooperation with canyon residents and the Navajo Nation, to halt the continuing deterioration of the watershed, and protect and restore resources in Canyon de Chelly.

What's Next

NPS policy requires that general management plans describe specific "management prescriptions" for each particular area of a park. Management prescriptions (or zones) describe desired resource conditions and visitor experiences as well as indicate the appropriate kinds and levels of management, visitor activities, and development in different parts of the monument. These management prescriptions provide the foundation for all subsequent decision making in the park and are a core element of the general management plan. In some instances, management prescriptions are applied park wide; they may also be applied to specific geographic areas. Most parks have both kinds of prescriptions.

Over the next several months, the planning team will be developing draft management prescriptions for Canyon de Chelly National Monument. The planning team will then develop a range of possible future management alternatives and actions, applying the different management prescriptions to different areas. The various alternatives will be used to compare and evaluate the conse-

quences of implementing different management approaches. The National Park Service will eventually select a "preferred alternative" – the agency's preferred course of action for Canyon de Chelly. You will have several opportunities to review and comment on the management prescriptions and alternatives.

We are always interested in your comments and ideas. If you have comments regarding the planning process and the future of Canyon de Chelly, you can contact the park at:

**Canyon de Chelly National Monument
General Management Plan
P.O. Box 588
Chinle, AZ 86503**

Or, log onto the National Park Service planning website at <http://planning.nps.gov/plans.cfm> and scroll to Canyon de Chelly National Monument "general management plan" for the latest information.

Step	Planning Activity	Dates	Public Involvement Opportunities
1	Set the Stage for Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine issues and concerns in meetings with the Navajo Nation, public, agencies, and other stakeholders Reaffirm the park purpose, significance, and mission. 	Summer to Winter 2003	Attend public meetings and voice your concerns; send us your concerns and issues by mail, telephone, or e-mail.
2	Develop Management Prescriptions and Preliminary Management Alternatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify a range of reasonable alternatives for the park's future. Continue consultation with concerned tribes and groups (e.g., Navajo Nation, Hopi, Zuni). Present draft alternatives to the public and other stakeholders. Identify preliminary NPS preferred alternative. 	Spring 2004 to Fall 2004	Attend public meetings and voice your concerns; send us your concerns and issues by mail (return the response form), telephone, or e-mail.
3	Prepare and Publish the Draft GMP/EIS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare the draft document, describing the alternatives for the management of the park, and environmental impacts. Distribute the draft document to the public. Continue consultation with the Navajo Nation, Hopi, Zuni, and other stakeholders. 	Winter to Fall 2005	Attend public meetings and voice your concerns; read the draft plan and send us your concerns and issues by mail, telephone, or e-mail.
4	Revise and Publish the Final GMP/EIS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze public comments, prepare responses to substantive comments, and revise the draft document as necessary. Distribute document to the public. 	Spring 2006	Read the final plan.
5	Implement the Approved Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare and issue a Record of Decision and implement plan as funding allows. 	Spring 2006 and beyond	Stay involved throughout implementation of the approved plan.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Canyon de Chelly National Monument
P.O. Box 588
Chinle, Arizona 86503

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COMMENT FORM

We would like your thoughts on the following questions. Feel free to attach additional sheets as needed. After completing your comments, please fold the form in the middle and tape it closed (no staples). No postage is necessary. You can also send us comments via the Internet at <http://planning.nps.gov/plans.cfm> (scroll to the Canyon de Chelly general management plan website).



Canyon de Chelly National Monument Newsletter • Draft GMP/EIS • August 2004

- 1. Do you agree with the purpose, significance, and mission statements for Canyon de Chelly?
How would you improve them? Any additional comments?**

- 2. Imagine you are visiting Canyon de Chelly 20 years from now. Describe what you would like to experience or not experience during your visit.**

- 3. What is your greatest concern about the future of Canyon de Chelly?**

- 4. What additional comments or concerns do you have?**

Denver Service Center-Steve Whissen, Planning
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